

Application No.: 09/970,789
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2008

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LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A portable device comprising:

a display screen;

a processing unit; and

memory storing computer readable instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the portable device to perform the steps of:

- (i) receiving a task list, wherein each task comprises information known about a unique shipment of goods prior to the shipment being inspected;
- (ii) displaying task information on the display screen to inform a user about upcoming inspections;
- (iii) receiving inspection results from the a user, wherein an on-site inspection of one of the shipments of goods in the task list is performed by the user and the on-site inspection of goods is based from the information about the unique shipment of goods, further wherein the inspection results correspond to the a user's on-site inspection of one of the shipments of goods in the task list; and
- (iv) transmitting the inspection results over a wireless communications link.

12. (Original) The portable device of claim 11, wherein step (i) is performed over a wireless communications link.

13. (Original) The portable device of claim 11, wherein step (i) is performed during one or more wired synchronization procedures.

14. (Original) The portable device of claim 11, wherein each task corresponds to a shipment of goods that is to be inspected.

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15. (Original) The portable device of claim 11, further comprising a camera, and wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the portable device to perform the steps of:

- (v) photographing at least a portion of the one shipment of goods using the camera;
- (vi) storing the photograph in the memory; and
- (vii) associating the photograph with the task corresponding to the one shipment of goods.

16. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the device to perform the step of:

- (v) sending a communication to a second device associated with an X-ray team, based on the inspection results, said communication requesting an x-ray of the corresponding shipment.

17. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the device to perform the step of:

- (v) sending a communication to a device associated with an import specialist, said communication comprising inspection results.

18. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 11, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the device to perform the step of:

- (v) sending a communication to at least one device associated with a customs inspector, said communication comprising inspection results.

19. (Original) The portable device of claim 11, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the portable device to perform the steps of:

- (v) displaying a research tool in response to a user input; and
- (vi) receiving research criteria input by the user;
- (vii) querying the research tool using the research criteria; and
- (viii) displaying query results on the display screen.

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20. (Original) The portable device of claim 19, wherein the research tool displays news articles.

21. (Original) The portable device of claim 19, wherein the research tool comprises an inspection look up function.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer, comprising:
a display screen;
a processing unit; and
memory storing computer readable instructions wherein, when the computer readable instructions are executed by the processor, they cause the computer to perform the steps of:

- (i) receiving a task list from a second computer, wherein each task comprises information known about a unique shipment of goods prior to the shipment being inspected;
- (ii) displaying task information on the display screen to inform a user about upcoming inspections;
- (iii) receiving inspection results from the a user, wherein an on-site inspection of one of the shipments of goods in the task list is performed by the user and the on-site inspection of goods is based from the information about the unique shipment of goods, further wherein the inspection results correspond to the a user's on-site inspection of one of the shipments of goods in the task list; and
- (iv) sending the inspection results to the second computer.

23. (Original) The computer of claim 22, wherein each task corresponds to a shipment of goods that is to be inspected.

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24. (Original) The computer of claim 22, further comprising a camera, and wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of:

- (v) photographing at least a portion of a first shipment of goods using the camera;
- (vi) storing the photograph in the memory; and
- (vii) associating the photograph with the task corresponding to the first shipment of goods.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 22, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer to perform the step of:

- (v) sending a communication to a device associated with an X-ray team, based on the inspection results, said communication requesting an x-ray of the corresponding shipment.

26. (Original) The computer of claim 22, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer to perform the step of:

- (v) sending a communication to a device associated with one of an import specialist and a customs inspector, based on the inspection results.

27. (Original) The computer of claim 26, wherein the communication is sent to a plurality of devices associated with customs inspectors.

28. (Original) The computer of claim 22, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of:

- (v) displaying a research tool in response to a user input; and
- (vi) receiving research criteria input by the user;
- (vii) querying the research tool using the research criteria; and
- (viii) displaying query results on the display screen.

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29. (Original) The computer of claim 28, wherein the research tool comprises an inspection look up function.

30. (Original) The computer of claim 28, wherein the research tool displays reports of trends of imported goods.

31. (Currently Amended) A portable device comprising:
a display screen;
a processing unit; and
memory storing a database and computer readable instructions, wherein each entry in the database is representative of a task and comprises:

- a first field representative of a priority level,
- a second field representative of an arrival date,
- a third field representative of an importer name,
- a fourth field representative of a risk level, and
- a fifth field representative of a commodity name;

and wherein the computer readable instructions, when executed by the processor, cause the portable device to perform the steps of:

- (i) receiving a task list, wherein each task corresponds to a shipment of goods and wherein the priority level, the arrival date, the importer name, the risk level, and the commodity name is used by a user to prioritize an inspection schedule;
- (ii) displaying a task summary list on the display screen to inform a user about upcoming inspections;
- (iii) displaying detailed task information on the display screen to inform the user about upcoming inspections, wherein the task information comprises information associated with a shipment of goods corresponding to a selected task, said information comprising information known about the shipment of goods prior to the shipment being shipped;
- (iv) receiving inspection results from the a user, wherein an on-site inspection of one of the shipments of goods in the task list is performed by the user

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and the on-site inspection of goods is based from the information about the shipment of goods, further wherein the inspection results correspond to the shipment of goods; and

- (v) transmitting the inspection results.

32. (Original) The portable device of claim 31, wherein step (i) is performed over one of a synchronization process through a second computer and a wireless communications link.

33. (Previously Presented) The portable device of claim 31 wherein the task summary list comprises the priority level, the arrival date, the importer name, the risk level, and the commodity name for each task.

34. (Original) The portable device of claim 31, wherein in step (v), the results are transmitted over a wireless communications link.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer, comprising:
a display screen;
a processing unit; and
memory storing a database and computer readable instructions, wherein each entry in the database is representative of a task and comprises:
a first field representative of a priority level,
a second field representative of an arrival date,
a third field representative of an importer name,
a fourth field representative of a risk level, and
a fifth field representative of a commodity name;
and wherein the computer readable instructions, when executed by the processor, cause the computer to perform the steps of:
(i) receiving a list of tasks from a central database, wherein each task corresponds to a shipment of goods, and wherein each task comprises information known about the shipment of goods prior to the shipment

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being shipped, and further wherein the priority level, the arrival date, the importer name, the risk level, and the commodity name is used by a user to prioritize an inspection schedule;

- (ii) displaying a task list on the display screen to inform a user about upcoming inspections, wherein, for each task, the computer displays the priority level, the arrival date, the importer name, the risk level, and the commodity name;
- (iii) displaying task information on the display screen to inform the user about upcoming inspections, wherein the task information comprises information associated with a shipment of goods corresponding to a selected task;
- (iv) receiving inspection results from the a user, wherein an on-site inspection of one of the shipments of goods in the task list is performed by the user and the on-site inspection of goods is based from the information about the shipment of goods, further wherein the inspection results correspond to the shipment of goods; and
- (v) transmitting the inspection results to clear the shipment for passage.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 35, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer to perform the step of:

- (vi) displaying an analysis report list on the display screen, wherein, when a user selects one of the analysis reports, a complete report corresponding to the selected report is displayed on the display screen.

37. (Original) The computer of claim 36, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer to perform the step of:

- (vi) displaying an inspection look up box on the display screen, wherein, when a user enters a selected date, a list of inspections corresponding to that date is displayed on the display screen.

38. – 41. (Cancelled)

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42. (Currently Amended) A method of clearing a shipment of goods into a country, comprising the steps of:

- (i) receiving at a portable handheld computer a task list comprising a plurality of tasks, wherein each task comprises information known about a unique shipment of goods prior to the shipment being inspected;
- (ii) displaying the task list on a display of the portable handheld computer to inform a user about upcoming inspections;
- (iii) receiving user input selecting a first task from a plurality of tasks in the task list;
- (iv) displaying task detail information corresponding to the first task to inform the user about upcoming inspections;
- (v) at a location of goods being inspected, receiving user input into the portable handheld computer corresponding to the user's inspection of the shipment of goods corresponding to the first task; and
- (vi) sending the inspection results from the portable handheld computer to a server computer, wherein an on-site inspection of one of the shipments of goods in the task list is performed by the user and the on-site inspection of goods is based from the information about the unique shipment of goods, further, wherein the inspection results are sent over a wireless communications link.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein step (i) is performed over a wireless communications link.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the information known about a unique shipment of goods includes an image of how the goods are expected to look upon inspection.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the portable handheld computer communicates with a camera, and further comprising the steps of:

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- (vii) photographing at least a portion of the shipment of goods using a camera;
- (viii) storing the photograph in a memory; and
- (ix) associating the photograph with the shipment of goods.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of:

- (vii) sending a communication to a device associated with an X-ray team based on the inspection results.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of:

- (vii) sending a communication to a device associated with an import specialist based on the inspection results.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of:

- (vii) sending a communication to at least one device associated with a customs inspector.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

- (vii) accessing a research tool from the portable handheld computer; and
- (viii) performing research corresponding to the shipment of goods.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the research tool comprises reports of trends of imported goods.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the research tool comprises an inspection lookup function.

52. – 58. (Canceled)

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59. (New) The device of claim 11, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the portable device to perform the steps of: determining a risk rating related to the unique shipment of goods based on criteria from the group of: importer information, carrier information, type of merchandise, amount of times the carrier has been inspected, and amount of times contraband has been found for a particular carrier.

60. (New) The device of claim 59, wherein the risk rating is used by the user during the inspection of one of the shipments of goods.

61. (New) The computer of claim 22, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of: determining a risk rating related to the unique shipment of goods based on criteria from the group of: importer information, carrier information, type of merchandise, amount of times the carrier has been inspected, and amount of times contraband has been found for a particular carrier.

62. (New) The computer of claim 61, wherein the risk rating is used by the user during the inspection of one of the shipments of goods.

63. (New) The device of claim 31, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the portable device to perform the steps of: determining a risk rating related to the shipment of goods based on criteria from the group of: importer information, carrier information, type of merchandise, amount of times the carrier has been inspected, and amount of times contraband has been found for a particular carrier.

64. (New) The device of claim 63, wherein the risk rating is used by the user during the inspection of one of the shipments of goods.

65. (New) The computer of claim 35, wherein the computer readable instructions further cause the computer to perform the steps of: determining a risk rating related to the shipment of goods based on criteria from the group of: importer

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information, carrier information, type of merchandise, amount of times the carrier has been inspected, and amount of times contraband has been found for a particular carrier.

66. (New) The computer of claim 65, wherein the risk rating is used by the user during the inspection of one of the shipments of goods.

67. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the method further includes a step: determining a risk rating related to the unique shipment of goods based on criteria from the group of: importer information, carrier information, type of merchandise, amount of times the carrier has been inspected, and amount of times contraband has been found for a particular carrier.

68. (New) The device of claim 67, wherein the risk rating is used by the user during the inspection of one of the shipments of goods.